

U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/703,869
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated July 9, 2004
Response to the Office Action of April 9, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A processor comprising:

a processing unit for registering a print request command of an accepted print job, storing a print file of said print job in a print data storing unit, reading out print data of said print file in accordance with said print request command and writing the print data to a spool file storing unit; and

a device control filter for analyzing and processing said print data sequentially read out from said spool file storing unit by said processing unit so as to output said print data so analyzed and processed to a printer,

wherein said processing unit starts writing said print data of said print file to said spool file storing unit in accordance with said print request command, when it starts storing said print file in said print data storing unit.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A processor as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said processing unit informs said device control filter that the storing of said print file has been completed, and wherein said device control filter analyzes and processes said print data being

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read out to the end of said print file from said spool file storing unit, and output said print data to said printer.

Claim 3 (Original): A processor as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said processing unit can accept and register a plurality of print jobs, and wherein said device control filter can analyze and process print data of respective print files read out in accordance with said print request command for output to a plurality of different printers.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A processor comprising:

a processing unit for storing ~~printing~~ print data of a plurality of accepted print jobs in a print data storing unit, reading out sequentially a print file of each print job from said print data storing unit, and writing said print file to a spool file storing unit; and

a device control filter for reading out said print file from said spool file storing unit, analyzing and processing said read out print ~~data~~ file, and outputting said print ~~data~~ file to a printer,

wherein when said device control filter is not analyzing and processing ~~[[a]]~~ said print data file, said processing unit reads out said print data of said print job in accordance with a specific condition which determines an output sequence of said registered print jobs stored in said print data storing unit, and writes said read out print data to said spool file storing unit.

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Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A processor as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said processing unit starts writing said print data of said print file to said spool file storing unit in accordance with a print request command, when it starts storing of said print file in said print data storing unit.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A processor as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said processing unit can read out print data of said print file for supply to said device control filter only when a requester of printing releases said print job from a hold condition in a case where said print job is accepted in the hold condition.